

Service Area Plan

Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

Coal Environmental Protection and Land Reclamation (50604)

Service Area Background Information

Service Area Description

This service area implements the Virginia Coal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act and attendant regulations. Virginia operates the coal surface mining regulatory program under approval (primacy) of the federal Office of Surface Mining. The law and regulations protect the public safety and health from the possible harmful environmental effects of coal mining operations. Products and services include:

- Customer service, such as training, technical assistance, and information sharing.
- Inspection and enforcement of the coal mine reclamation laws and regulations.
- Certification of blasters on surface coal mines.
- Permitting of coal mine sites and point-source pollution discharges to surface waters.
- Regulatory development to establish minimum requirements for operations on and reclamation of surface coal mine sites.
- Land reclamation through use of financial guarantees to ensure proper reclamation of permitted sites and use of the Abandoned Mine Land Program for coal mine lands abandoned before reclamation was required under the mining laws.
- Economic development support through assessing reclaimed mine land for residential, commercial, or industrial use and identification of coalfield resources (water, land, infrastructure) available for economic development uses.

Service Area Alignment to Mission

This service area directly aligns with DMME's mission of enhancing the development of energy resources in a safe and environmentally sound manner to support a more productive economy.

Service Area Statutory Authority

- Chapter 19 of Title 45.1 of the Code of Virginia, known as the Virginia Coal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (CSMCRA), establishes environmental protection requirements for operation and reclamation of coal mines in Virginia, and issuance of water discharge permits on coal mines. DMME implements this Act under primacy from the federal Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining. The federal authority is established through the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, Public Law 95-87.
- Chapter 18 of Title 45.1 of the Code of Virginia establishes requirements for construction and operation of major refuse piles, and water and silt retaining dams on coal mines in Virginia.
- Chapter 20 of Title 45.1 of the Code of Virginia establishes Virginia's membership in the Interstate Mining Compact Commission.

Service Area Customer Base

Customer(s)	Served	Potential
Affiliated business interests	116	116
Coal mining companies	30	30
Other governmental agencies	52	52
Public affected by coal mining operations	165,000	165,000

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Anticipated Changes In Service Area Customer Base

Coal mining companies

- The number of permitted coal mining operations and tonnage of coal mined has historically changed based on the price of energy. Although actual coal reserves are fixed, as the price per ton of coal increases, the level of economically recoverable reserves and production generally increases. This trend has been offset in recent years by the declining availability of easily mined coal reserves, causing a steady drop in the amount of coal mined. Recently there has been a sharp increase in energy costs. The price of coal has increased to over \$50/ton for steam grade coal and over \$100/ton for metallurgic coal in mid 2005.

- The number of Virginia coal mines and tonnage mined had been generally decreasing since 1990. With the current high prices of coal, this trend has stabilized or been reversed. In 2004, 30,564,816 tons of coal were produced from 294 coal mines. DMME expects the number of coal mines to remain relatively stable and the tonnage produced to be stable or slightly increase as long as the price of coal remains above \$40/ton. While the numbers of permits is expected to be stable, DMME expects to see an increase in the number of permit amendments it must process as mine operators enlarge the size of existing permits or restart those that have been in temporary cessation.

- Coal mines must remain under bond for a minimum time after completing active operations to guarantee that the land has been successfully reclaimed. For most mines, the liability period runs for five years after final reclamation is established. Therefore, the number of permitted coal mines, active or in reclamation (referred to as inspectable units), has remained higher than the number of producing coal mines. There were 562 inspectable units in 2004. DMME expects the number of inspectable units to be stable over the next five to seven years as the older mines reaching final permit and bond release are replaced with new or reopened sites. Permitting activities will increase as coal mining customers must address additional permitting requirements from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agencies.

Public affected by mineral extraction operations

- Public located near coal mining operations may be affected by such items as ground vibrations from blasting; degradation of groundwater quantity or quality; uncontrolled release of material such as flyrock or pushed or tracked material from the site or landslides; dust from blasting, construction, or travel on soft-surfaced roads; noise or light pollution; or off-site traffic. DMME's coal mining regulations control many, but not all, of these impacts. While some impacts, such as light, noise, local truck traffic, and hours of operation, may be subject to local government land use controls, DMME receives and must investigate most complaints on all of the mining effects.

- Public located near abandoned coal extraction sites may be affected by hazards on the abandoned sites, such as open shafts or portals, landslides, ground or surface water pollution discharges, sediment buildup causing flooding, land subsidence, or hazardous gases.

- DMME works with a number of public interest and environmental advocacy groups on coal mining issues that affect the public. These include such groups as The Nature Conservancy, Hands Across the Mountain, local and regional watershed groups, the Dickenson County Citizens Committee, and others. The agency works in partnership with some groups on projects and invites others to participate in regulatory development processes as representatives of affected public.

- DMME expects there will be additional people affected by coal mining operations in the coming years.

- Surface coal mining operations are locating closer to developed areas as the available remotely located coal reserves suitable for surface mining dwindle. This brings more of the public into close contact with the mining operations.

- Development is moving into areas containing historic, unreclaimed coal mine land, increasing the number

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of people at risk from these abandoned sites.

- The increasing proximity between mineral extraction operations and the public is expected to result in increased opposition to the locations of existing and new operations. This may cause an increased number of public interest advocacy groups to become active on coal mine site issues.

Affiliated mineral extraction business interests

- Numerous businesses support mineral extraction operations. These include such groups as engineering firms that assist with permit preparation and facility design and independent contractors providing non-mining services at mine sites (blasting, reclamation contractors, loggers).
- The coal surface mining reclamation program has limited involvement with many of the affiliated mineral extraction businesses. Its main interaction is with independent engineering firms that complete permit applications for mine operators and companies completing reclamation of abandoned mine land. DMME expects the number of engineering companies and land reclamation construction contractors to remain stable.

General public and businesses

- All Virginia residences and businesses are potentially served through DMME's coal mining activities. Approximately 50% of electricity generated in Virginia is generated in coal-fired power plants. Approximately 45% of coal used in Virginia's power plants comes from in-state mines. Maintaining this supply of coal is critical to maintaining the reliability of Virginia's electric generating industry.
- Use of Virginia coal at Virginia's electric generating plants is expected to grow in the next few years as one or more new coal power plants are developed in the state. There are two large coal-fired power plants in development at this time.

Other governmental agencies

- DMME provides geologic, mineral resource, and energy information to a wide variety of governmental agencies.
 - Economic development entities use mineral resource information in their business development activities. Other government agencies use geologic information to plan their projects. For example, information on location of coal mines has been critical to proper planning and design of the coalfield expressway. Coal resource information is used when assessing locations for economic development projects such as new electric generating plants. Economic development organizations use information on abandoned mine land to help locate new residential, commercial, or industrial sites. Local governments in Southwest Virginia use information on location of coal mines and coal resources as an input to local land use planning processes.
 - DMME provides information on the mineral extraction industry to other state and local agencies that have business relationships with the mineral extraction industry. Agencies such as the Departments of Conservation and Recreation and Environmental Quality look to DMME for guidance on how the extraction industry operates. DMME also deposits proceeds from water pollution discharge permit violations with the Department of Environmental Quality for use in the Virginia Emergency Environmental Response Fund.
 - DMME coordinates mineral extraction regulatory activities with the similar regulatory agencies in other coal producing states. Areas, such as DMME's electronic permitting, mapping systems, and performance measurement processes, are regularly benchmarked by other coal regulatory agencies. Much of the coordination is handled through the Interstate Mining Compact Commission.
- DMME works with the LENOWISCO and Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commissions, and Southwest Virginia local governments and public service authorities to implement water supply replacement projects in areas where drinking water supplies have been affected by historic coal mining.

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- Soil and water conservation districts, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and similar agencies partner with DMME to address water quality issues through mined land reclamation projects.
- DMME expects the number of governmental agency customers to grow in the next few years. For example, economic development organizations and localities will increasingly need information from DMME as the coalfield expressway is developed across Southwest Virginia. The Single Source Coal Reporting program will require increased coordination among DMME, other states, and the federal Internal Revenue Service, Office of Surface Mining, Corps of Engineers, and Mine Safety and Health Administration.

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Service Area Products and Services

- Customer assistance
 - Risk assessment, hazard identification, technical assistance, education, and cooperative projects to enhance environmental protection and land reclamation during coal extraction.
 - Customer assistance services assist customers to maintain safe and environmentally protective coal mines in compliance with regulatory requirements.
- Inspection and enforcement
 - Thorough and consistent inspection and enforcement of laws and regulations addressing operational and reclamation environmental controls, and water quality on coal mines. Investigate accidents and complaints. Civil penalty assessment.
 - Inspection and enforcement services assist customers to maintain safe and environmentally protective coal mines in compliance with regulatory requirements.
- Certification
 - Certification of persons performing blasting on surface coal mines.
 - Certification services assure workers performing surface coal mine blasting are qualified to perform these tasks.
- Permitting
 - Permit and plan review and approval, financial bonding, coordination with other agencies' regulatory requirements.
 - Permitting and plan review services ensure coal mining operations can be conducted safely and protective of the environment (operations, land reclamation, water quality) and in compliance with coal operation and reclamation laws and regulations.
- Regulatory development
 - Establishing minimum operational and reclamation requirements consistent with governing laws for coal mining operations.
 - Regulatory services ensure the legal standards governing coal mining operations will result in safe and environmentally protective operations while establishing the minimum required intrusion in permitted operations.
- Land reclamation
 - Reclamation of abandoned coal mine land and bond forfeiture sites; replacement of water supplies damaged from historic coal mining operations; emergency reclamation of imminent dangers caused from abandoned mine land; and restoration of streams damaged by acid mine drainage and sedimentation.
 - Land reclamation services correct damage and mitigate risks of future damage from improperly reclaimed coal mined lands.
- Economic development
 - Providing mapping and information in support of economic development (site geology, mineral availability, sources of water, and similar information).
 - Economic development services support efforts to increase jobs and economic activity in Southwest Virginia.

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Factors Impacting Service Area Products and Services

- Customer assistance requests are expected to increase as energy costs remain high. Operators will want assistance offsetting higher costs for their energy supplies. Continued high energy costs will allow increased development of coal resources. Mineral extraction companies will need additional assistance to comply with new water quality requirements necessary for total maximum daily load (TMDL) implementation plans. DMME may need to increase reclamation of abandoned coal mines causing water pollution to reduce pollution in streams. This will allow new mines to be opened while reaching the water quality improvement goals in the streams.
- Implementation of new permitting requirements by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers due to mountaintop mining controversies will require increased permitting coordination between DMME and other state and federal agencies.
- Coal mine operators are required to complete ground control plans under the 2005 amendments to the Virginia Coal Mine Safety Act. As part of these plans, operators must designate and take special precautions around "Red Zones", or areas where there are increased risks from ground-control failures. These plans must be approved by DMME.
- Increased availability of digitized underground mine maps will allow mine permits and plans to better account for the presence of the old mine works, resulting in a safer mining environment. Permitting services will have to expand to account for the availability of this information.
- Permitting of new mineral extraction sites will become more difficult as surface coal mining sites move closer to built-up areas (due to the limited areas of remaining coal reserves) and sprawl reaches areas where mines are located. This will increase the likelihood of litigated issue hearings and court challenges to permit decisions as well as protests against coal mining.
- Development of the Coalfield Expressway (CFX) across Buchanan, Dickenson, and part of Wise counties will increase the need for waivers of coal mining regulatory coverage when the highway construction crosses coal-bearing property. The revenue from coal produced along the road right-of-way is seen as a critical method to reduce the cost of the road project. While these sites will not need to be permitted by DMME, the agency will assist in planning for the permitting exemptions.
- Federal authorization to collect fees under the Abandoned Mined Land Program will expire in September 2005 without further Congressional action. Other non-monetary incentives for reining also will end without Congressional reauthorization. Lack of reauthorization would severely limit DMME's ability to provide land reclamation services. This will increase the risk faced by Virginia's coalfield residents from abandoned mined lands. Loss of the funds would limit funds available to install replacement water supply projects in Southwest Virginia. The loss of indirect cost recovery from the federal AML grants also would affect DMME's ability to support its administrative services.
- Past reductions in DMME's budgets has caused the agency to increasingly rely on permit revenue. DMME will spend down fund balances from this source in the coming year and will need additional general fund support to maintain current levels of service through the next biennium.

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Anticipated Changes To Service Area Products and Services

- The demand for DMME's customer services is anticipated to increase as the mineral extraction industry faces continuing business challenges and as energy costs remain high.
- Permitting and plan review services will grow as mineral extraction operators take advantage of high energy prices by opening new or reopening idled coal mines.
- Abandoned mined land reclamation services will increase in response to TMDL implementation plan needs.
- More DMME permitting time will be required for increased coordination of new permitting requirements implemented in response to mountaintop mining controversies and implementation of improved ground control plans on surface coal mines. More permitting time also will be required to respond to controversies caused by mines being located closer to built-up areas
- More DMME permitting time will be required to account for the increased availability of digitized underground mine maps.
- Development of the Coalfield Expressway will increase DMME's plan review and inspection activity without any corresponding increase in permit fee revenue. This also will increase requests for DMME's support of economic development activities as the new highway opens new areas for industrial, commercial, and residential development.
- DMME would have to scale back its mined land reclamation and water system replacement activities if the U.S. Congress does not reauthorize the federal Abandoned Mined Land program. Once the current balance of funds is expended, DMME would have to eliminate this program. DMME would have to cut its administrative services if these federal funds are no longer available.
- DMME anticipates losing more employees to mine operators as these companies increase their salaries to respond to their labor shortages. This will cause increased severance and recruitment costs for the agency. DMME will also be faced with increasing difficulty attracting experienced employees under the state salary schedule.
- Spending down of permit fee fund balances in the coming year will cause DMME to have to either reduce services or find additional funding in the new biennium.

Service Area Financial Summary

The Coal Environmental Protection and Land Reclamation service area funding comes from federal funds (65%), general funds (11%), bond forfeiture proceeds (13%), permit fees from coal mine operators (7%), abandoned mine land set aside revenue designated for water projects in the coalfield region of Virginia (3%), and civil penalties collection agency (1%).

	<u>Fiscal Year 2007</u>		<u>Fiscal Year 2008</u>	
	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund
Base Budget	\$1,648,731	\$13,205,362	\$1,648,731	\$13,205,362
Changes To Base	\$343,108	\$601,631	\$343,108	\$601,631
SERVICE AREA TOTAL	\$1,991,839	\$13,806,993	\$1,991,839	\$13,806,993

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Service Area Objectives, Measures, and Strategies

Objective 50604.01

To eliminate adverse environmental impacts and unsafe conditions related to permitted coal mine sites.

Protection of the public safety and the environment from the off-site effects of activities on coal mine sites is of critical importance in such areas as blasting, discharge of materials from the site, and protecting against the deleterious effects mining may have on the environment. DMME provides customer assistance, hazard identification, and inspection and enforcement of mine operational and reclamation requirements to meet this objective.

This Objective Supports the Following Agency Goals:

- Encourage economic development through our customers' wise management of Virginia's energy, mineral, land, and water resources.

(This objective is consistent with DMME's mission of enhancing the development of energy resources in an environmentally sound manner. The coal surface mining reclamation program is mandated in Chapters 19 of Title 45.1 of the Code of Virginia, known as the Virginia Coal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (Virginia CSMCRA). This objective aligns with DMME's strategic direction under goal 2, "Encourage economic development through our customers' wise management of Virginia's energy, mineral, land, and water resources", and with the long-term objectives of Virginia to protect, conserve, and wisely develop our natural resources and to protect the public's safety.)

This Objective Has The Following Measure(s):

- **Measure 50604.01.01**

Percentage of coal mine sites with no adverse off-site environmental damage or public safety hazards.

Measure Type: Outcome

Measure Frequency: Every Six Months

Measure Baseline: 95.1% (avg. FY 2001 - FY 2005)

Measure Target: >=95% (avg. FY 2003 - FY 2007)

Measure Source and Calculation:

This measure is calculated using information from DMME's coal reclamation automated enforcement system. Records of violations show if there is any off-site damage or public safety hazard related to violations of reclamation laws or regulations. The number of sites with no violations causing off-site damage is calculated as a percentage of total permitted sites. The percentages for the most recent five years are then averaged.

- **Measure 50604.01.02**

Percentage of environmental violations successfully eliminated by the violations' due dates.

Measure Type: Outcome

Measure Frequency: Every Six Months

Measure Baseline: 86.7% (avg. FY 2001 - FY 2005)

Measure Target: >= 80% (FY 2007 - FY 2008)

Measure Source and Calculation:

This measure is calculated using information from DMME's coal reclamation automated enforcement system. Records of violations show the date the violation is issued, the target date for eliminating the violation, and the date the violation was eliminated. The number of environmental violations eliminated by their due dates is calculated as a percentage of total environmental violations issued.

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Objective 50604.01 Has the Following Strategies:

- The DMME Division of Mined Land Reclamation will provide consistent, thorough inspections and assistance to ensure compliance with laws and regulations. This will include coordinated inspections with the DMME Division of Mines of designated “Red Zone” areas.
- The DMME Division of Mined Land Reclamation, with appropriate agencies, will conduct site visits, and review and approve permit applications that are environmentally sound and meet regulatory requirements, including:
 - Joint review and approval of ground control plans and review and approval of emergency preparedness/response plans with the DMME Division of Mines.
 - Expanding contacts with other agencies such as the Department of Environmental Quality on Virginia Water Protection Permits; the United States Fish and Wildlife Services, United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Office of Surface Mining work group; and the United States Environmental Protection Agency on the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program.
 - Resolving regulatory conflicts with the United States Office of Surface Mining and Army Corps of Engineers on stream restoration/mitigation.
 - Using regulatory work groups under the state Administration Processes Act regulatory process to address needed regulatory changes such as for stream restoration standards and self bonding (similar to federal standards for cost bonds).
- The DMME Division of Mined Land Reclamation, collaborating seamlessly, will investigate health, safety, and environmental issues, concerns, and complaints in a timely manner, and assist the DMME Division of Mines and other agencies with reviews and inspections of customers' emergency action, preparedness, and response plans.
- The DMME Division of Mined Land Reclamation will continue to work with other agencies, customers, and stakeholders on the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and ensure permits are issued consistent with approved TMDLs by:
 - Developing procedures for applications to mine within TMDL watersheds.
 - Develop software tools to perform TMDL reviews.
 - Determine Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) loads in the affected watersheds.
 - Update the Cumulative Hydrologic Impact Assessment (CHIA) process to include TMDLs.
- The DMME Division of Mined Land Reclamation will develop and implement guidance for permitting underground slurry injection operations through:
 - Review procedures for slurry injection applications.
 - Use geographic information system (GIS) tracking for mine works where slurry is emplaced.
 - Use a database to track slurry injection monitoring data.
- The DMME Division of Mined Land Reclamation will continue permitting and inspection for compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) point source water pollution control requirements.
- The DMME Division of Mined Land Reclamation will promote reforestation/carbon sequestration post mining land used by coordinating with the United States Office of Surface Mining on its reforestation initiative.
- The DMME Division of Mined Land Reclamation will provide and partner with other providers of training programs and services and will participate with other entities in activities, such as:
 - Public outreach (brochures, schools, etc.).
 - Appalachian Regional Technology Team training events.
 - Workshops.
 - Permit Streamline meetings.
 - Guidance memorandums.

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- The DMME Division of Mined Land Reclamation will minimize duplication of inspection activities through communication and coordinated inspections and investigations with other local, state, and federal agencies.

Objective 50604.02

To eliminate public safety hazards and adverse environmental conditions from abandoned coal sites.

Abandoned coal mine lands left unreclaimed, or permitted coal mine sites not properly reclaimed by the permit holder, may cause water pollution from non point source runoff or acid mine drainage. Abandoned mines may cause public safety hazards from abandoned equipment, water-filled pits, unprotected highwalls, open mine portals, possible blowouts of trapped water, or other problems. This objective directs DMME to work to reclaim the highest priority abandoned coal mine sites and replace water supplies damaged by historic coal mining.

This Objective Supports the Following Agency Goals:

- Encourage economic development through our customers' wise management of Virginia's energy, mineral, land, and water resources.
(This objective is consistent with DMME's mission of enhancing the development of energy resources in an environmentally sound manner. The coal Abandoned Mined land program is mandated in Article 4 of Chapters 19 of Title 45.1 of the Code of Virginia, known as the Virginia Coal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (Virginia CSMCRA). This objective aligns with DMME's strategic direction under goal 2, "Encourage economic development through our customers' wise management of Virginia's energy, mineral, land, and water resources", and with the long-term objectives of Virginia to protect, conserve, and wisely develop our natural resources and to protect the public's safety.)

This Objective Has The Following Measure(s):

- **Measure 50604.02.01**

Funds added to Virginia's Abandoned Mined Land program through partnerships annually.

Measure Type: Outcome **Measure Frequency:** Annually

Measure Baseline: \$41,334 (avg. FY 2004 - FY 2005)

Measure Target: >= \$30,000 (FY 2007 - FY 2008)

Measure Source and Calculation:

The amount of non-AML program funds included in partnership and leveraging agreements is totaled for each year.

Objective 50604.02 Has the Following Strategies:

- The DMME Division of Mined Land Reclamation will utilize available resources to:
 - Abate hazards on abandoned mined land (AML) emergency sites.
 - Abate hazards on high priority AML and post-act sites.
 - Reclaim and release bond forfeiture sites.
 - Assist in the development of public water supply systems in the Southwest Virginia coalfields.
- The DMME Division of Mined Land Reclamation will utilize available resources to investigate and take appropriate action on all issues, concerns, and complaints related to abandoned mine lands and bond forfeiture sites to include contractors' requirements in "Red Zone" areas.

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- The DMME Division of Mined Land Reclamation will maintain an inventory of sites needing reclamation, to include acid mine drainage sites, abandoned mined lands, and sites whose reclamation will enhance total maximum daily load (TMDL) implementation plans or carbon sequestration.
- The DMME Division of Mined Land Reclamation will pursue additional funding sources and opportunities through expanded contacts with state and federal agencies and customers to facilitate reclamation. Division actions will be coordinated with the DMME grants development and management function.

Objective 50604.03

To improve our customers' ability to establish and maintain efficient, viable operations.

DMME helps regulated coal mine operators establish and maintain economically viable operations that will be both profitable and operate safely and respectfully of the environment. DMME works with its customers to implement process improvements to increase efficiency of interaction with DMME and provide coal mining related information needed for economic development.

This Objective Supports the Following Agency Goals:

- Encourage economic development through our customers' wise management of Virginia's energy, mineral, land, and water resources.
(This objective is consistent with DMME's mission of enhancing the development of energy resources in an environmentally sound manner. This objective aligns with DMME's strategic direction under goal 2, "Encourage economic development through our customers' wise management of Virginia's energy, mineral, land, and water resources", and with the long-term objectives of Virginia to protect, conserve, and wisely develop our natural resources and to protect the public's safety.)

This Objective Has The Following Measure(s):

- **Measure 50604.03.01**

Percentage of timely decisions on new coal mine permit applications.

Measure Type: Outcome **Measure Frequency:** Every Six Months

Measure Baseline: 78% (avg. FY 2001 - FY 2005)

Measure Target: >= 90% (avg. FY 2003 - FY 2007)

Measure Source and Calculation:

This measure is calculated using permit-tracking data from DMME's coal mine regulatory database system. The number of permit decisions made within 60 working days permit review time is compared to the total number of permit decisions made. The number is calculated as a percentage. The percentages are then averaged over the most recent five years.

- **Measure 50604.03.02**

Percentage of customer forms submitted electronically.

Measure Type: Outcome **Measure Frequency:** Every Six Months

Measure Baseline: 87.4% (avg. FY 2004 - FY 2005)

Measure Target: >=75% (FY 2007 - FY 2008)

Measure Source and Calculation:

The DMME Division of Mined Land Reclamation counts the number of form submittals from activity logs. The measure is calculated as a percentage of the forms submitted electronically as compared to the estimate of the total number of forms submitted to the Division.

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Objective 50604.03 Has the Following Strategies:

- The DMME Division of Mined Land Reclamation will involve its customers in identifying areas for service improvements and provide effective, timely and useful assistance to its customers through site visits, referrals, training, consultative services, technology transfer, partnerships, and leveraging other resources. This will include ongoing review of DMLR permit procedures using the Permitting Enhancement Workgroup.
- The DMME will implement an informational/educational program that addresses increasing customer and public interest regarding mining-related issues such as dust control; coordination with other agencies to address off-permit issues; information on permits, notices of violation, and applications, abandoned mine land enhancement projects, and scheduled hearings or public meetings.
- The DMME Division of Mined Land Reclamation will develop more proactive bonding and bond release procedures using the Permitting Enhancement Workgroup and promote incremental bonding.
- The DMME Division of Mined Land Reclamation will involve its customers and stakeholders in continually identifying, developing, and implementing process improvements to include E-government, regulatory guidance, electronic information/data distributions, technical assistance, and digital signatures.
- DMME will work with federal agencies, coal mine operators, utilities, landowners, public-private partnerships, and community interests to expand land reclamation and development through remining by promoting reclamation and partnership opportunities through DMME's web pages, e-mails, personal contacts, referrals, and newsletters.
- DMME Divisions of Mined Land Reclamation, Energy, and Mineral Resources will collaborate with state, regional, and local economic development organizations to provide information on the mineral and energy infrastructure useful for development opportunities.
- The DMME Division of Mined Land Reclamation will assist with awards programs of the Virginia Mining Association, Office of Surface Mining, Interstate Mining Compact Commission, National Association of State Land Reclamationists, and others to identify and promote best practices in remining.
- The DMME Division of Mined Land Reclamation will expand coordination activities with appropriate state and federal agencies using methods such as:
 - Interagency workshops with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Surface Mining, Army Corps of Engineers, and others to develop coordinated/joint permit reviews.
 - Seek a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Environmental Quality on Virginia Water Protection general permit actions, anti-degradation, and other issues.
 - Regular public meetings with state and federal agencies, such as quarterly meetings with the United States Office of Surface Mining to discuss common issues.
 - Drafting conservation measures as required by the 1996 Biological Opinion on the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act and Endangered Species Act.

Objective 50604.04

To expand economic development opportunities in the coalfield region.

DMME will support use of reclaimed coal mine lands for industrial, commercial, and residential uses through approving post-mining land uses for economic development and partnering with outside organizations to develop economic uses for mined lands.

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(This objective is consistent with DMME's mission of enhancing the development of energy resources in an environmentally sound manner. This objective aligns with DMME's strategic direction under goal 2, "Encourage economic development through our customers' wise management of Virginia's energy, mineral, land, and water resources", and with the long-term objectives of Virginia to protect, conserve, and wisely develop our natural resources and to be a national leader in the preservation and enhancement of our economy.)

This Objective Has The Following Measure(s):

- **Measure 50604.04.01**

Number of people employed as a result of reclamation construction projects.

Measure Type: Outcome

Measure Frequency: Every Six Months

Measure Baseline: 122 (avg. FY 2004 - FY 2005)

Measure Target: >=100 (FY 2007 - FY 2008)

Measure Source and Calculation:

The DMME collects quarterly employment statistics directly from contractors completing abandoned mined land construction projects. Quarterly data are summed to provide six-month figure.

Objective 50604.04 Has the Following Strategies:

- The DMME Division of Mined Land Reclamation (DMLR) will support state, regional, and local economic development organizations to enhance economic development. As part of this effort, DMLR, the DMME Division of Mineral Resources, and other DMME divisions will pursue partnerships with economic development agencies to improve their access to information regarding potential industrial and commercial business sites, while focusing on projects such as:
 - Industrial parks.
 - Commercial development sites.
 - Utility construction.
 - Coal waste-to-energy.
- DMME will improve the level of customer services provided via the agency's website by enhanced information sharing, and continued development and implementation of an Internet mapping application.
- The DMME Division of Mined Land Reclamation will seek or respond to opportunities to partner with stakeholders to develop mined land for economic development and other beneficial land uses, such as:
 - Remining initiatives.
 - Experimental practices.
 - Abandoned Mined Land enhancement.
 - Wetland banking.
 - Carbon sequestration.
 - Recreational, commercial, industrial, residential development.
 - Governmental projects.
 - Transportation infrastructure projects.
 - Tourism.
 - No cost agreements.

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- The DMME Division of Mined Land Reclamation will identify emerging issues, such as total maximum daily load (TMDL), Abandoned Mined Land Program continuation, mining-related litigation, logging, Virginia Water Protection general and individual permits, and consolidated federal coal permitting. The Division will work with its customers to address potential impacts from these issues.